

## Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 AID-01 SS-07 NSC-06 /024 W

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R 070947Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5172

CONFIDENTIAL MANILA 9242

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP: MATSUNAGA, SPARK M.

SUBJECT: CODEL MATSUNAGA'S VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES

SUMMARY: CODEL MATSUNAGA ACCCOMPANIED BY STAFDEL CHEN VISITED THE PHILIPPINES JULY 3 AND 4 (CHEN REMAINED UNTIL JULY 6).

CODEL SPENT 2 HOURS WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS AND SIMILAR TIME WITH OPPOSITION. HE MADE A TRIP TO ZAMBALES AND PAMPANGA TO INSPECT AID PROJECTS IN COMPANY OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR AND VISITED HOME FOR AGED NEAR MANILA. CODEL MADE ADDRESS AT EMBASSY FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION AND ATTENDED CHARGE'S DINER IN HIS HONOR. CODEL EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH HIS SHORT AND SOMEWHAT HECTIC VISIT TO PHILIPPINES.

END SUMMARY.

1. CODEL MATSUNAGA, ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN POLICY ASSISTANT DR. CHEN, ARRIVED IN MANILA EARLY AFTERNOON JULY 3. CODEL MET BRIEFLY WITH CHARGE AND SENIOR MEMBERS OF COUNTRY TEAM. HE EXPLAINED PRINCIPAL PURPOSE IN VISITING PHOLIPPINES WAS TO HAVE XPOSURE TO WHAT WAS GOING ON HERE SO THAT HE COULD BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO CONCERNS OF HIS CONSTITUENTS WHO ARE OF FILIPINO ANCESTRY. DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH CHARGE CODEL RAISED TWO ISSUES:

(A) COMPLAINTS BY CONSTITUENTS THAT THEIR RELATIVES ARE NOT RECEIVING CHECKS SENT TO THEM FROM HAWAII. POSTAL PROBLEM WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RAISED WITH MARCOS WHO DIRECTED POSTMASTER GENERAL TO LOOK INTO MATTER. DR.CHEN FOLLOWED UP ON IT WITH GOP POSTAL OFFICIALS DIRECTED BY PRESIDENT AND POSTMASTER GENERAL TO MEET WITH HIM JULY 5.

(B) COMPLAINT THAT TAX SETUP HERE HAS MADE IT VERY

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DIFFICULT FOR US CITIZEN RETIREES TO LIVE. CODEL ACCEPTED EXPLANATION THAT GOP'S MORE STRIGENT TAX COLLECTION IS

PROBABLY REASON WHY RETIREES ARE COMPLAINING AND THAT MOST OF THEM PROBABLY HAD NOT PAID TAXES PREVIOUSLY. CODEL THEN VISITED CONSULAR SECTION, WHERE HE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO SPAK WITH SMALL GROUP OF BALIKBAYANS AND SEVERAL INTENDINGS IMMIGRANTS PLANNING TO LIVE IN HAWAII. BALIKBAYANS, WHO WERE CHOSEN AT RANDOM, WERE GENERALLY PARTISANS OF PRESIDENT MARCOS.

3. CODEL NEXT VISITED GOLDEN ACRES REHABILITATION HOME IN QUEZON CITY, WHICH IS PROJECT OF FIRST LADY. HE WAS MET BY UNDERSECRETARY OF WELFARE AND GIVEN TOUR OF FACILITY WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS IMPRESSIVE.

4. CODEL, ACCCOMPANIED BY CHEN AND EMBOFF, THEN VISITED HOME OF SENATOR SALONGA FOR 2 AND HALF HOUR DISCUSSION. OTHERS PRESENT INCLUDED SENATORS TANADA, ROXAS AND RODRIGO, MRS. AQUINO, AND CHINO ROCES. OPPOSITION PRESENTED STANDARD AGRUMENTS ON MARCOS SEIZURE OF POWER, ILLEGAL TENURE IN OFFICE, PERSONAL CORRUPTION, AND SUCCESSION PROBLEM. SENATOR SALONGA WARNED THAT US WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE TO PAY VERY HIGH PRICE FOR SUPPORT IT NOW PROVIDING MARCOS. CODEL ASKED RELATIVELY FEW QUESTIONS BUT AT CONCLUSION OF SESSION SAID THAT AS A LAWYER HE FOUND ARGUMENTS OF LAWYERS MOST CONVINCING.

5. ON JULY 4 CODEL ACCCOMPANIED PRES. MARCOS AND SECRETARIES ENRILE AND PATERNO AND GENERAL ESPINO AROUND GOLF COURSE AND HAD BREAKFAST WITH THEM. EMBASSY UNABLE TO DEBRIEF CODEL BEFORE HE DEPARTED COUNTRY BUT STAFDEL CHEN STATED MOST OF CONVERSATION HE COULD HAR ON GOLF COURSE DEVOTED TO PLEASNTRIES. AT BREAKFAST CODEL TOLD MARCOS THAT ONE QUESTIONHE MUST ASK ON BEHALF OF HIMSELF AND MANY OTHER CONGRESSMEN WAS "HOW LONG?" MARCOS REPLY WAS APPARENTLY NOT VERY MUCH TO POINT WITH PRESIDENT DETAILING VARIOUS CONSIDERATIONS WHICH HAD LED HIM TO INSTITUTE MARIAL LAW. IN RESPONSE TO STAFDELL QUESTION ON BASE, MARCOS STATED FLATLY THAT HE WISHED US TO REMAIN IN REGION AND HAVE USE OF BASES BUT THEY HAD TO BE "FILIPINO."

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6. AFTER REMARKS AT EMBASSY FOURTH OF JULY CEREMONY, CODEL, ESCORTED BY USAID DIRECTOR, ACCCOMPANIED EXECUTIVE SECREARY MELCHOR ON FLYING TRIP TO VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN ZAMBALES AND PAMPANGA. HE VISITED EQUIPMENT POOL, BRIDGE, IRRIGATION PROJECT, ETC. CODEL COMMETED HE FOUND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS MOST IMPRESSIVE.CODEL DEPARTED MANILA FOR HAWAII JULY 4 ABOUT 6 P.M.

7. STAFDEL CHEN WAS DEBRIEFED BY CHARGE, A/DCM, AND POL COUNSELOR MORNING JULY 5. DURING AFTERNOON HE VISITED

CHINATOWN TO FOLLOW UP ON CONTACTS SUGGESTED BY FOREIGN  
MINISTRY TAIPEI. STAFDEL ATTENDED LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF  
DEPARTING ROC INFORMATION COUNSELOR JULY 6, WHERE HE HAD  
OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH LEADING CHINESE BUSINESSMEN IN  
MANILA AND BE BRIEFED ON CONFLICT BETWEEN PRO-PEKING AND  
PRO-TAIWAN ELEMENTS IN LOCAL CHINESE COMMUNITY. CHEN DE-  
PARTED FOR HONG KONG 1820 JULY 6. PURNELL

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Event:**  
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**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**  

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CODEL MATSUNAGA'S VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES SUMMARY: CODEL MATSUNAGA ACCCOMPANIED BY STAFDEL CHEN VISITED  
**TAGS:** OREP, (MATSUMAGA, SPARK M)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006